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Directorate of Intelligence

# Top Officials in Moldova

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*LDA 92-14035*
*September 1992*

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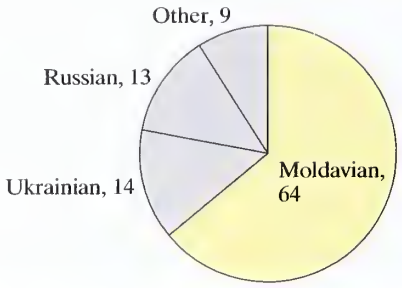
## Moldova at a Glance

**Ethnic Composition** *Percent*




Declared independence: 27 August 1991
Capital: Chişinău
Population: 4,362,000

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# Top Officials in Moldova

## Preface

*Information available as of 15 September 1992 was used in this report.*

This paper identifies and provides background information on selected government officials and political figures in Moldova. It also provides information on the members of the more prominent opposition movements and the leaders of separatist groups. In late June 1992, Moldova's cabinet resigned. By early August, candidates for all but two posts in the new cabinet had been confirmed. The two still unassigned positions were being held open for candidates acceptable to the secessionist self-proclaimed "Dnestr Republic."

This Reference Aid is the fifth in a series on countries formed after the breakup of the USSR. It follows:

- LDA 92-11828, May 1992, *Leaders in the Baltic States.*
- LDA 92-13575, August 1992, *Top Officials in Georgia.*
- LDA 92-14034, August 1992, *Top Officials in Belarus.*
- LDA 92-14193, September 1992, *Top Officials in Central Asia.*

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## Contents


| | *Page* |
|---|---|
| Preface | iii |
| Profiles of Selected Officials | 1 |
| Presidential Administration | 3 |
| Cabinet | 3 |
| Legislature | 4 |
| Council of Ministers | 5 |
| Departments | 6 |
| Other Key Officials | 6 |
| Opposition Leaders | 7 |
| Separatist Leaders | 8 |

## Profiles of Selected Leaders

Novosti ©

**Mircea Snegur**
*(Phonetic: SNEEgoor)*

***Presideut (since 1990)***

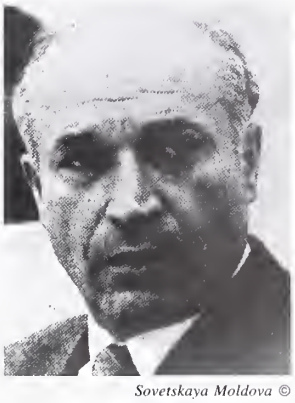
Elected in December 1991 . . . political pragmatist . . . approach toward separatist conflict in Dnestr region characterized by balancing hardline, nationalist legislators' demands and moderates' call for conciliation . . . stresses Moldovan independence in response to insistence from some quarters for immediate unification with Romania . . . agronomist . . . does not speak English . . . born 1940.

Sovfoto ©

**Andrei Sangheli**
*(Phonetic: sanGAYlee)*

***Prime Miuister (since July 1992)***

Member of powerful, traditionalist agrarian faction in legislature; selected by Snegur in attempt to appease faction, according to press reports . . . favors peaceful resolution of Dnestr conflict . . . previously served as First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture . . . agronomist . . . born 1944.



*Sovetskaya Moldova* ©

**Alexandru Mosanu**
*(Phonetic: moSHAHnoo)*

***Chairmau, Legislature (since 1990)***

Former member of nationalist Popular Front . . . main author of Moldova's declaration of independence . . . has opposed Moldovan membership in CIS; nevertheless, has stated that unification with Romania is inevitable . . . historian . . . has published several books on Moldovan history . . . born 1932.

*No Photo Available*

**Pavel Creanga**
*(Phonetic: kreeANgah)*

***Minister of Defense (since July 1992)***

Experienced soldier; holds rank of major general . . . more moderate in dealing with separatists than his predecessor, according to press . . . former First Deputy Defense Minister . . . has served in Soviet army, including tours in Afghanistan and Cuba . . . born 1933.

*Sovetskaya Moldova ©*

**Nicolae Tiu**
*(Phonetic: tseeYOU)*

***Minister of Foreign Affairs (since 1990)***

New to international affairs . . . conflict in Dnestr region has dominated his foreign policy agenda . . . shares Snegur's wait-and-see attitude toward possible unification with Romania . . . agronomist . . . began full-time Communist Party work in 1980s . . . born 1948.

## Presidential Administration

**President**
Mircea Snegur*

**Political Analysis Adviser**
Vlad Darie

**Military Analysis Adviser**
Nicolae Chirtoaca

## Cabinet

**Prime Minister**
Andrei Sangheli*

**First Deputy Prime Minister**
Nicolae Andronati

**Deputy Prime Ministers**
Valentin Cunev
Nicolae Oleinic
Mihai Coscodan

**Minister of State**
Gheorghe Gusac

*Biographic profile included.

## Legislature

**Chairman**
Alexandru Mosanu*

**First Deputy Chairman**
Ion Hardica

## Key Commissions and Their Chairmen

**Agrarian**
Sergiu Fandofan

**Economics**
Mijai Patras

**Environment**
Pavel Gusac

**Foreign Affairs**
Vasile Nedelciuc

**Media**
Valeriu Matei

**Military and Security**
Andrei Turcanu

**Prevention of Crime**
Victor Berlinschi

**Women and Family Issues**
Nadejda Branzan

*Biographic profile included.

## Council of Ministers

**Minister of Agriculture**
Vitalie Gorincioi

**Minister of Commerce**
Tudor Slanina

**Minister of Construction**
Valeriu Cebotari

**Minister of Culture and Religion**
Ion Ungureanu

**Minister of Defense**
Pavel Creanga*

**Minister of Domestic Trade**
Mihai Severovan

**Minister of Economy**
Serghei Certan

**Minister of Finance**
Claudia Melnik

**Minister of Foreign Affairs**
Nicolae Tiu*

**Minister of Foreign Economic Relations**
Andrei Cheptine

**Minister of Health**
Gheorghe Ghidirim

**Minister of Industry**
(Vacant)

**Minister of Internal Affairs**
Constantin Antoci

**Minister of Justice**
Alexei Barbaneagra

**Minister of Labor**
Dumitru Nidelcu

**Minister of National Security**
Vasile Calmoi

**Minister of Science and Education**
Nicolae Matcas

**Minister of Telecommunications**
Ion Casian

**Minister of Transport**
(Vacant)

**Minister of Youth, Sports, and Tourism**
Petru Sandulachi

*Biographic profile included.

## Departments

**Customs**
Gheorghe Hioara

**Energy Resources**
Valeriu Iconicov

**Gasification**
Boris Carandiuc

**Languages**
Ion Domeniuc

**Nationalities**
(Vacant)

**Publishing and Book Trade**
Aurel Scobioala

**Standards**
Dumitru Cimpoes

## Other Key Officials

**Governor, National Bank of Moldova**
Leonid Talmaci

**Permanent Representative to the UN**
Tudor Pantiru

**Ambassador to the United States**
(Vacant)

## Opposition Leaders

*Sovetskaya Moldova* ©

**Mircea Druc**
*(Phonetic: drewk)*

***Chairman, Christian Democratic Popular Front (formerly Moldovan Popular Front; since February 1992)***

Strongly advocates immediate unification with Romania . . . highly critical of Snegur government . . . Greens Party candidate in fall 1992 Romanian presidential election . . . served as Moldova's prime minister during 1990-91; was voted out of office by legislature . . . has background in academia as linguist, economist, sociologist . . . born 1943.

Russian TV ©

**Oazul Nantoi**
*(Phonetic: nanTOY)*

***Chairman, Social Democratic Party (since at least September 1991)***

Former adviser to President Snegur; was removed from post in June 1992 for "pro-Moscow sentiments" . . . has publicly criticized Snegur's more militant policies in Dnestr region . . . former cochairman of Popular Front; opposes ultranationalism of Popular Front leadership . . . advocates negotiated settlement to separatist crisis . . . favors independence for Moldova over unification with Romania . . . journalist and political commentator.

## Separatist Leaders

*The Ukrainian Weekly* ©

**Igor' Nikolayevich Smirnov**
*(Phonetic: SMEERnuff)*

***President, Self-Proclaimed "Dnestr Republic" (since December 1991)***

Has been thorn in the side of Moldovan leadership since late 1980s . . . demands have alternated between complete independence for Dnestr region to autonomy within federative structure . . . supported Moscow coup plotters in August 1991; was arrested and briefly held by Moldovan authorities . . . former Communist Party secretary in Tiraspol' . . . Western commentators liken him to Lenin both in views and in physical appearance . . . ethnic Russian . . . engineer . . . born 1941.

Globe ©

**Grigorie Maracuta**
*(Phonetic: mahrahCOOtah)*

***Chairman, Dnestr "Supreme Soviet" (since September 1991)***

Ethnic Moldavian with longstanding ties to Communist Party . . . sided with coup plotters in Moscow in August 1991 but is more moderate than Smirnov, according to press . . . agronomist.

Sovfoto ©

**Stepan Topal**
*(Phonetic: tohPAHL)*

***President, Self-Proclaimed "Gagauz Republic" (since December 1991)***

Came to national attention in late 1990 when he was elected chairman of Gagauz "Supreme Soviet" . . . calls for autonomous republic for Gagauz (Christian Turkic people) . . . was arrested and briefly detained by Moldovan authorities in September 1991 . . . construction engineer . . . born 1943.

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